

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 /030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4802

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 0785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN) MZ RH

SUBJECT: CODEL SOLARZ: MEETING BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ AND
ZANU LEADER EDWARD MUGABE

1. SUMMARY: AFTERNOON OF JULY 7, CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ HELD ONE
HOUR AND HALF CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT MUGABE, ZANU SECRETARY
GENERAL. MUGABE

---ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SERIOUS DIVISIONS EXIST WITHIN ZIMBABWE
LIBERATION MOVEMENT;

---DENOUNCED PRESIDENT MACHEL'S IDEA THAT ZIMBWABEAN
GUERRILLA CONFLICT SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A "PROTRACTED
STRUGGEL";

---EXPLAINED THAT "THIRD FORCE" IS REALLY A ZANU FORCE
CONTROLLED BY HIMSELF AND ZANU CENTRAL COMMITTEE;

---DISMISSED IDEA THAT ZANU AND (THIRD FORCE) WOULD
EVER INVITE FOREIGN TROOPS TO ASSIST IN LIBERATION OF
ZIMBABWE;

--STATED THAT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBWABWE UNDER ZANU CONTROL
WOULD BE GOVERNED MORE LIKE TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA THAN MOZAMBIQUE;

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AND

---SAID UK NO LONGER HAD USEFUL OR MEANINGFUL ROLE TO PLAY
IN RESOLUTION OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM.
MUGABE ALSO CRITICIZED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S APRIL 27
LUSAKA SPEECH, BUT SAID HE WLECOMED OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
WITH USG OFFICIALS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSMEN SOLARZ, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM CARSON, TRAVELLED
TO QUELIMANE, 800 MILES NORTH OF MAPUTO, JULY 7 TO MEET WITH
ROBERT MUGABE, ZANU SECRETARY GENERAL AND SELF-DESCRIBED LEADER OF
ZANU AND THE THIRD FORCE, AND EDGAR TEKERE, ZANU CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MEMBER. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ OPENED MEETING BY SAYING
THAT CHANGES OF PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE WERE TAKING PLACE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA, THAT VERY FEW MEMBER OF CONGRESS UNDERSTOOD
WHAT WAS HAPPENING, AND THAT HE HOPED BY MEETING WITH
ZIMBABWE LIBERATION GROUP LEADERS TO GAIN A BETTER APPRECIATION
OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE AREA. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED MUGABE
A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT ZANU, THE THIRD FORCE AND CURRENT
STATUS OF ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION STRUTGLE. FOLLOWING ARE
MUGABE'S RESPONSES.

3. DURATION OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. WHEN ASKED HOW
LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO BRING SMITH REGIME DOWN, MUGABE SAID
HE COULD NOT PREDICT. THE COLLAPSE OF THE SMITH REGIME WILL
"DEPEND ON THE SITUATION AND AMOUNT OF PRESSURE" (BOTH MILITARY
AND POLITICAL) BROUGHT TO BEAR ON IT. MUGABE DISAGREED WITH
PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL'S ANALYSIS THAT THE ZIMBABWEAN
GUERRILLA CONFLICT SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A "PROTRACTED
STRUGGEL". ACCORDING MUGABE, A STRUGGLE DOES NOT BECOME
PROTRACTED BY DESIGN. ALTHOUGH ZANU IS PREPARED TO FIGHT
INDEFINITELY, WE WOULD LIKE INDEPENDENCE ACHIEVED IN THE
SHORTEST PERIOD OF TIME. WE CANNOT OPT FOR A LONG TERM
SOLUTION. THIS HAS TOO MANY DISADVANTAGES. FIRST, IT
DELAYS INDEPENDENCE AND SECONDLY, IT INCREASES THE
HARDSHIPS. ZANU IS NOT INTERESTED IN UNNECESSARY BLOODLETTING,
BUT ZANU IS NOT AFRAID TO FIGHT. WE ARE PREPARED TO GO
THE FULL DISTANCE, TEN YEARS OR TWENTY YEARS. IF "GOOD
BROTHER VORSTER AND OTHER FORCES COME IN, OUR STRUGGLE
COULD TAKE LONGER.

4. DIVISION WITHIN ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. MUGABE
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ACKNOWLEDGED "THAT THE NATIONALIST MBVEMENT IS NOT ONE.
HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A NEW FEATURE." IN 1974 AT TIME MUGABE,
SITHOLE, NKOMO, TEKERE, ZVOBGO AND OTHERS WERE RELEASED FROM
DETENTION IN SALISBURGY, MUGABE SAID THERE WERE THREE POLITICAL
GROUPS: ZANU, ZAPU, AND ANC. ZANU AND ZAPU WERE IN
EXILE AND THE ANC WAS THE "HOME BASED UMBRELLA FOR BOTH GROUPS"--
ALTHOUGH IT SOON DEVELOPED A SEPARATE RAISON D'ETRE UNDER
BISHOP MUZOREWEA. TODAY, THESE THREE GROUPS STILL RETAIN A

SEPARATE IDENTITY, ALTHOUGH THE FOUR FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS HAVE TRIED TO GET THEM TO SWALLOW THEIR DIFFERENCES. MUGABE SAID THAT THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES WAS ENGINEERED BY KAUNDA, FOLLOWING SEVERAL MEETINGS HE (KAUNDA) HAD WITH SMITH AND VORSTER. WHEN THE ZAPU AND ZANU LEADERS WERE FLOWN TO LUSAKA, KAUNDA "THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION". ZANU AND ZAPU IF THEY DID NOT UNITE AND NEGOTIATE WITH SMITH. WITH THIS ULTIMATUM THEY HAD NO OPTION BUT TO UNITE. HOWEVER, FROM THE BEGINNING ZANU RECOGNIZED THAT TALKING WITH SMITH WOULD BE FRUITLESS AND DECIDED TO PRESENT A PUBLIC FACE OF UNITY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ORGANIZING ITSELF FOR THE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE. DURING THE INITIAL MONTHS OF THEIR RELEASE THE ZANU LEADERS (MUGABE, ZVOBGO, TEKERE SITHOLE, AND OTHERS) REACTIVATED GUERRILLA RECRUITING CELLS IN RHODESIA AND SOLICITED EXTERNAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THEIR STRUGGLE. BECAUSE OF SMITH'S STUBBORNNESS AND ZANU'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANYTHING SHORT OF MAJORITY RULE, THEY KNEW THE TALKS WOULD FAIL, AND THEY EVENTUALLY DID.

5. ZANU AND THE THIRD FORCE. MUGABE SAID THAT THE FOUR FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS HAD ASKED ZANU AND ZAPU LEADERS DURING THE EARLY WEEKS AFTER THEIR RELEASE TO COMBINE THEIR MILITARY AS WELL AS THEIR POLITICAL EFFORTS, THREATENING NOT TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR GUERRILLA STRUGGLE IF THEY REFUSED. ZANU RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED ZIMBABWE LIBERATION ARMY, WITH A HIGH COMMAND COMPOSED EQUALLY OF ZANU AND ZAPU REPRESENTATIVES. THIS WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE THIRD FORCE. THE ZAPU CADRES, NUMBERING LESS THAN 200, TURNED OUT TO BE COMPLETELY WORTHLESS. THEY REFUSED TO FIGHT WHILE THEIR CHIEF, NKOMO, CONTINUED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SMITH. MOST OF THEM EVENTUALLY LEFT THE CAMPS. MUGABE DENIED THEY WERE CHASED AWAY, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS FRICTION BETWEEN THE ZANU AND ZAPU CADRES IN THE CAMPS. MUGABE

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CLAIMED THAT TODAY THE THIRD FORCE HIGH COMMAND WAS COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF ZANU MILITARY LEADERS WHO WERE LOYAL TO HIM. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT LIVING IN THE MILITARY CAMPS OR DIRECTING THE DAY TO DAY MILITARY OPERATIONS, HE MET WITH THE HIGH COMMAND LEADERS REGULARLY TO DISCUSS OVERALL STRATEGY.

6. MILITARY CAMPS AND NUMBER OF ZANU FREEDOM FIGHTERS. MUGABE SAID THE ZANU HAD APPROXIMATELY 20,000 "YOUNGSTERS OVER SEVENTEEN" TRAINED OR UNDERGOING TRAINING IN MOZAMBIQUE AND OTHER PLACES. THERE WERE A LESSER NUMBER (UNSPECIFIED) OF GUERRILLAS OPERATING INSIDE RHODESIA. ALTHOUGH SOME ZANU CADRES WERE SENT INTO ACTION AFTER A FEW MONTHS TRAINING. MOST RECEIVED AT LEAST SIX MONTHS TRAINING. THERESWERE FOUR MAIN CAMPS AND NUMEROUS TRANSIT CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE. ONE OF THE LARGE CAMPS, LOCATED IN TETE PROVINCE, WAS A JOINT

ZANU-FRELIMO CAMP. WHEN CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED IF HE MIGHT VISIT ONE OF THESE CAMPS, MUGAGE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SECURITY REASONS. ZANU DID NOT WANT TO TAKE PEOPLE TO SEE THEM. IN ADDITION, BECAUSE THE CAMPS WERE IN MOZAMBIQUE, ZANU HAD TO ABIDE BY MOZAMBIQUE'S REGULATIONS, ONE OF WHICH STATED THAT NO ONE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE CAMPS WITHOUT GPRM APPROVAL.

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4803

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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7. FOREIGN TROOPS. BOTH MUGABE AND TEKERE SAID THAT ZANU WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION AND USE OF FOREIGN TROOPS IN THE ZIMBABWEAN STRUGGLE. TEKERE SAID, "WE ARE OUR OWN LIBERATORS, IF WE CANNOT LIBERATE OURSELVES, WE DON'T DESERVE TO BE LIBERATED. THIS APPLIES TO MOZAMBIQUE AS WELL WE DO NOT WANT THEIR SOLDIERS." MUGABE AGREED AND SAID THAT THE ZIMBABWEANS MUST FIGHT AND WIN THEIR OWN STRUGGLE WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE MANPOWER. WHEN ASKED WHO WAS PROVIDING ZANU AND THIRD FORCE WITH ARMS, MUGABE SAID THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING ARMS DIRECTLY FROM ANY COUNTRY AND THAT ALL WAR MATERIALS WERE BEING ROUTED THROUGH THE OAU'S LIBERATION COMMITTEE. "WE PREFER IT THAT WAY."

8. WHITE MINORITY RIGHTS. WHEN ASKED IF ZANU WOULD PROVIDE

GUARANTEES FOR RHODESIAN WHITES. MUGABE RESPONDED THAT THIS IS A VERY "QUEER QUESTION". WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE SPECIAL RIGHTS? OURS IS NOT A RACIAL STRUGGLE, ALTHOUGHT IT IS FREQUENTLY PAINTED AS ONE. WE ARE NOT GOING TO ENTRENCH PRIVILEGES FOR ANYONE, THIS IS NOT WHAT WE ARE STUGGLING FOR. IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE THEY WOULD BE TREATED JUST LIKE ANY
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OTHER CITIZEN. THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE THEIR POSITION IN THE QUEUE WITH THE REST OF US.

9. WHITE FLIGHT AND COMPENSATION. ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTURE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF WHITES WOULD CAUSE SOME ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS, MUGABE SAID ZANU WILL NOT APPEAL FOR THEM TO STAY, NOR WILL IT CHASE THEM AWAY. MUGABE SAID HE DID NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO COMPENSATIONS BEING GIVEN TO WHITES WHO LEAVE. IF THE BRITISH WISH TO PAY COMPENSATION, THAT IS THEIR BUSINESS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION IS COMPLEX. FOR EXAMPLE, NO COMPENSATION SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR LAND, ONLY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THOSE WHO STAYED MIGHT HAVE TO BE TRIED FOR "CRIMINAL OFFENSES" FOR THE ILLEGAL HANGING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. WHEN QUESTIONED FURTHER ON THIS HE INSISTED THAT ANYONE ARRESTED WOULD BE GIVEN A FAIR TRIAL. "WE DON'T INTEND TO ABOLISH STATUTES AS FRELIMO HAS DONE. WE WILL FOLLOW ENGLISH COMMON LAW."

10 ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POLICIES OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. MUGABE SAID ZANU WOULD RUN THE COUNTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN POLICIES. "ZANU WILL NOT RUN ZIMBABWE THE WAY FRELIMO RUNS MOZAMBIQUE. MOZAMBIQUE IS A MILITARY STATE AND WE DO NOT WANT MILITARY RULE. WE WANT A CIVIL GOVERNMENT, DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED, AND SIMILAR TO WHAT TANZANIA HAS TODAY." AS FAR AS ECONOMIC POLICY WAS CONCERNED, ZANU WOULD NATIONALIZE ALL "ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES": RAILROADS, COAL, ELECTRICITY, IRON AND STEEL AND HYDROELECTRICITY. "WE WILL NOT NATIONALIZE EVERYTHING" AS THEY HAVE DONE IN TANZANIA." BECAUSE AGRICULTURE IS SO IMPORTANT, AND SO MANY ZIMBABWEANS PARTICIPATE IN THIS SECTOR, MUGABE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH "TRUE COOPERATIVES" AND TO ALLOW THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO OPERATE LIKE IT DOES IN ZAMBIA. ALTHOUGH MUGABE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR TANZANIA'S UJAMAA VILLAGES, HE SAID THEY HAD PROBLEMS. AS FOR FOREIGN POLICY, ZIMBABWE WOULD TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED STATES.

11. UK ROLE IN CURRENT RHODESIAN SITUATION: MUGABE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BRITAIN ONCE HAD A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY, ITS

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ROLE HAS COME TO AN END. IF THE UK GOVERNMENT HAD ACTED IN RHODESIA IN 1965 AS IT DID LATER IN ANTIGUA WITH THE USE OF A LITTLE FORCE, THERE WOULD BE NO LIBERATION STRUGGLE GOING ON TODAY. THE UK WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINAL TURNOVER OF POWER TO A BLACK GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT WOULD BE IT.

12. US POLICY TOWARD RHODESIA. MUGABE SAID HE DID NOT THINK MUCH OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LUSAKA SPEECH. THE IDEA OF A TWO-YEAR TRANSITION AS ADVOCATED BY THE BRITISH "IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US". IN ADDITION, ZANU HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THAT THE USG CAST ITS FIRST EVER VETO IN THE UNSC IN 1969 AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. AND ALTHOUGH ZANU DID NOT PUT MUCH STOCK IN SANCTIONS, IT WAS AWARE THAT THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY VIOLATED UN AUTHORITY BY IMPORTING RHODESIA. CHROME. WHEN CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED HOW US MIGHT IMPROVE ITS POSITION ON RHODESIA, MUGABE SAID THE US MUST STOP TRADING WITH RHODESIA, REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT, AND KEEP OUT OF OUR "QUARRELS", ON THE LAST POINT, MUGABE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ADVISED SMITH TO NEGOTIATE WITH NKOMO BECAUSE HE IS "A REASONABLE MAN AND BECAUSE HE IS BEST HE (SMITH) WOULD GET." STATEMENTS LIKE THIS, HE SAID, MAKE IT APPEAR THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IS BACKING NKOMO AND TAKING SIDES IN AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE HANDLED BY THE ZIMBABWEANS.

13. FUTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ZIMBABWEAN RELATIONS. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED WHETHER A FREE ZIMBABWE WOULD OPEN ITS TERRITORY UP TO SOUTH AFRICA INSURGENTS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. MUGABE SAID ZANU WILL NOT ACT UNILATERALLY AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, BUT WILL WORK WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES AND THE OAU. AN ARMED STRUGGLE MAY NOT BE NECESSARY IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF THEIR STRUGGLE. WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO ARMED STRUGGLE BECAUSE OF THE WAY OUR SITUATION EVOLVED. THEIR SITUATION MAY BE DIFFERENT AND MAY NOT REQUIRE AN ARMED STRUGGLE.

14. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ CLOSED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WOULD BE GOING TO SALISBURG THE NEXT DAY AND ASKING WHAT HE SHOULD SAY TO SMITH IF THEY SHOULD MEET.
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MUGABE, BREAKING INTO A SMILE, SAID "SHOOT HIM".

15. COMMENT. SEVERAL IMPORTANT CONCLUSION CAN BE DRAWN FROM MUGABE'S STATEMENTS TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZC A) ALTHOUGH HE IS CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE SMITH REGIME TO COLLAPSE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE RECOGNIZES THAT SMITH HAS A GREAT DEAL MORE STAYING POWER AND FIGHT LEFT IN HIM. B) HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING CONCESSIONS TO STOP THE BLOODSHED. ZANU WANTS IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE, WITH THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TRANSITION PERIOD, PERHAPS THREE TO SIX MONTHS. C) WHILE THE STRUGGLE MAY TAKE A NUMBER OF YEARS, MUGABE SEES NO VALUE IN MACHEL'S IDEA OF A "PROTRACTED STRUGGLE". HE SAID AS MUCH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. NOR DOES HE CARE FOR THE WAY MOZAMBIQUE IS GOVERNED D) MUGABE SAID THAT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WOULD BE MODELLED AFTER TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA. ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE A DEMOCRATIC STATE (LIKE TANZANIA) WITH A MIXED ECONOMY (LIKE ZAMBIA). E) ZANU IS NOT ENAMORED OF PAST US POLICIES, WANTS THE US TO STAY OUT OF ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION POLITICS (I.E. NOT TAKE SIDES WITH NKOMO, SITHOLE, MUZOREWA OR MUGABE), HE IS WILLING TO TALK WITH USG OFFICIALS.

16 A KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER MUGABE IS, AS HE CLAIMS DE FACTO LEADER OF THE THIRD FORCE AND ZANU. AS FAR AS THIS EMBASSY IS AWARE, HE IS THE FIRST MAJOR ZIMBABWEAN LEADER TO SAY THAT HE IS. IN VERY UNEQUIVOCAL LANGUAGE, HE SAID ZANU IS THE THIRD FORCE AND THAT THE FICTION OF AN INDEPENDENT UNITED THIRD FORCE IS MAINTAINED ONLY TO PLACATE THE FOUR FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF THIS STATEMENT WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR OTHER CONFIRMING EVIDENCE. (IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT HUGO IDOYAGA, LOCAL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN A RECENT TRIP TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMPS WAS TOLD BY FRELIMO LEADERS THAT MUGABE WAS A MEMBER OF THIRD FORCE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND.)

17. TEN YEARS OF DETENTION HAVE NOT DULLED MUGABE. HE IS AN IMPRESSIVE, ARTICULATE AND EXTREMELY CONFIDENT INDIVIDUAL. HIS PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO PROBLEMS AND HIS WELL REASONED ARGUMENTS REMIND ONE OF JULIUS NYERERE, A MAN MUGABE OBVIOUSLY ADMIRES AND RESPECTS. WHETHER MUGABE IS OR IS NOT THE LEADER OF THE THIRD FORCE, HE IS NOT DOING MUCH EXTERNAL TRAVELLING, STAYING CLOSE TO THE FIGHTERS AND BUILDING HIS BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT HE WILL HAVE TO BE RECKONED

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WITH IN ZIMBABWE'S POST-INDEPENDENCE LEADERSHIP SWEEPSTAKES.

18. THIS TELEGRAM WAS PREPARED FROM THE DCM'S NOTES AND WAS NOT CLEARED WITH CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ BEFORE HE DEPARTED.

DE PREE

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Message Attributes

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